

The Sacramento



32823

Lavender Library, Archives
and Cultural Exchange
Sacramento, CA

Volume 1, Number 18

Published Alternate Wednesdays for the Women and Men of the Gay and Lesbian Community

January 26, 1983

Hemophilia Foundation Seeks Gay Blood Ban

Noting that most victims of a mysterious new immunological problem are homosexuals, the New York-based National Hemophilia Foundation has called for a ban on blood donations from gay men and a halt to blood collection in areas where they live, The Associated Press reported Jan. 17.

The foundation recommended that manufacturers of a blood protein treatment for hemophilia stop using plasma collected in "hot spots" with concentrations of gay men or other groups with high rates of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

The foundation's Medical and Scientific Advisory Council urged the ban "as a precautionary measure in the absence of more definitive information" about what causes AIDS and how it spreads, said Alan Brownstein, executive director of the foundation.

Potential donors should be asked if they are homosexuals and their blood tested for signs of AIDS, according to Brownstein.

But Virginia Apuzzo, the executive director of the National Gay Task Force, said a potential donor's fitness should be judged on the basis of his medical history, not his sexual history. She

predicted the foundation's policy would needlessly stigmatize gay men without stopping them from donating blood.

"If you were a gay man working in a homophobic workplace, you'd be the first to roll up your sleeve and give blood," Apuzzo said. She said such a prohibition might force homosexual men to donate blood in order to alleviate suspicion.

Brownstein said, however, that a manufacturer of blood protein for hemophiliacs had found that "hundreds" of would-be blood donors had eliminated themselves by acknowledging their homosexuality.

He said the foundation did not want to stigmatize gay men, but that questioning donors about AIDS symptoms was not enough. The disease apparently has an incubation period of up to a year, he said, and the symptoms — aches and pains, persistent fever, swollen glands — are too general to define those affected by it.

He said the foundation also was calling for blood tests to check the signs of the disease.

Three major blood collectors — the American Red Cross, the American Association of Blood Banks and the

Council of Community Blood Centers — said Jan. 14 they would ask "(blood) recruiters to avoid specific recruitment of groups at high risk of AIDS," including homosexual men, Haitians and drug addicts.

But in a joint statement, the groups said their blood banks would neither ask donors if they were gay nor exclude them because of it, since such questions are "an invasion of privacy that can be justified only if (they) demonstrate clear-cut benefit."

Gilbert Clark, executive director of the Association of Blood Banks, said the groups favored "screening safeguards for those who are unhealthy ... a very targeted fashion rather than a shotgun approach."

"We decided not to exclude an entire group based on sexual preference because that is not a determining factor in whether an individual is likely to have AIDS," Clark said. "There is no evidence it's ever transmissible by blood."

Together, the three organizations collect 95 percent of the country's voluntarily donated blood.

The Hemophilia Foundation's opinion

is very influential among the manufacturers of the expensive blood products used to treat hemophilia. These manufacturers usually pay donors for blood, but some of their plasma comes from the non-profit blood banks.

Brownstein said because these blood products are made with the blood of thousands of different people, hemophiliacs stand a greater risk of exposure to the blood of an AIDS victim than the average blood recipient.

Two studies published recently showed that some hemophiliacs who inject a freeze-dried blood protein called Factor VIII to combat bleeding have an imbalance in their immune systems similar to that noted in AIDS patients.

Although the origin of AIDS is unclear, some researchers have speculated that it is transferred through the blood. Nine of the nearly 1,000 diagnosed cases of AIDS in the U.S. have been hemophiliacs.

Brownstein said the foundation hoped research would allow it to seek exclusion of a narrower group, possibly only homosexuals who have been "very active with a number of sexual contacts." *

Presidential Hopefuls Support Lesbian/Gay Rights

Seven presidential hopefuls came to Sacramento seeking support at the California Democratic Party Convention on Jan. 14-18.

Each of the potential candidates for the Democratic nomination in 1984 stressed what he considered failures of the Reagan administration.

"Ronald Reagan has given America government of the rich, by the rich, for the rich," U.S. Senator Alan Cranston of California told the delegates.

Former Vice President Walter Mondale said to a supportive crowd, "Ronald Reagan tells us to stay the course; I say that Ronald Reagan has flunked the course!"

"If you are rich he gives you tax breaks; if you are poor he gives you cheese," Mondale continued.

"If you are a fatback, he gives you an ambassadorship; if you are a woman, he blames you for unemployment. If you are a segregationist, he pledges to get government off your back; if you are black, hispanic, asian, or homosexual, he pledges to get government off your side."

Cranston called on the Democratic Party to "bring government back to the people."

He said, "Our voice—the Democratic voice—must speak for small business and small farmers; for farm

workers still struggling for a decent life; for blacks and hispanics and asians still trapped in ghettos and barrios and enclaves; for gays and lesbians; for senior citizens who are rejected by an uncaring society and for children who are brutalized by it; for the poor, handicapped, for everyone held back by discrimination, ignorance, or bigotry."

Cranston called for equal pay and status for women, passage and vigorous enforcement of anti-discrimination laws, and passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Senator Gary Hart of Colorado called for a "new revolution" starting in California.

"Like Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry," he said, "let us lead a true Democratic revolution against injustice and greed, against an economy that benefits only the elite, against ignorance and insensitivity to human and civil rights."

Cranston, the only prospective candidate to visit the Lesbian and Gay Caucus, told the group that he would seek additional funding for AIDS research. He also pledged his continued support for anti-discrimination legislation. The caucus gave him a standing ovation.

Representatives of the gay press



Star Photo by Tim Warford

Former Vice President Walter Mondale, shown with Sacramento Ron Bentley, joined other prospective presidential candidates in seeking support from California Democrats at the party's recent state convention here. More photos are on page 4.

asked several of the presidential hopefuls if they would sign executive orders to end discrimination against gays and lesbians in federal employment, if they were elected president. Hart replied, "Probably, but I would want to think

about it first." Senator Fritz Hollings of South Carolina said that he would sign such an order.

Several of the party's officers elected at the convention are openly gay people. *

An open letter to the gay community on hepatitis B

San Francisco
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and Cultural Exchange
San Francisco, CA

Hepatitis B, a serious disease, may be sexually transmitted

Sexually transmitted diseases among the gay community are epidemic. Herpes has recently received a lot of attention; gonorrhea and syphilis are well known; but the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently issued a major recommendation for the prevention of another sexually transmitted disease: Hepatitis B. In their *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, the CDC stated: "Susceptible homosexually active males should be vaccinated [against hepatitis B] regardless of their age or duration of their homosexual practices."

Gay men are at a high risk of contracting hepatitis B

In one study, from 51% to 76% of 3,816 gay men seen in five sexually transmitted disease clinics had evidence of past or present hepatitis B infection. Once infected, there's a 6% to 10% chance of becoming a carrier—capable of passing on the virus. The CDC estimated there are nearly 1 million carriers in the United States and that 100,000 of these carriers are gay men.

The hepatitis B virus can be passed on by contact with contaminated body fluids

such as saliva, urine, semen, and blood. The hepatitis B virus can be transmitted through tiny breaks in the skin or contact with mucous membranes. This can occur during intimate sexual contact and can lead to hepatitis B for the partner of an infected person. Although most patients recover and over half contracting hepatitis B do not get symptoms, there is no specific treatment and no known cure for hepatitis B infections.

Hepatitis B may lead to even more serious complications

For those who do get symptoms of hepatitis B, a mild or severe "flu-like" sickness may continue for weeks or months. Ten percent of all infections become long lasting (chronic) with potential complications that are sometimes more serious than those of other sexually transmitted diseases. The serious complications include the chronic carrier state, chronic active hepatitis, chronic persistent hepatitis, cirrhosis, and even cancer of the liver. Every year almost 4,000 carriers die of cirrhosis. In addition, carriers have a risk 273 times greater than that of the general population of contracting a usually fatal form of liver cancer.

Now this serious sexually transmitted disease is usually preventable by vaccination with the new hepatitis B vaccine

After more than a decade of research and development, a new vaccine is available for prevention, *not treatment*, of hepatitis B. In clinical studies, the vaccine was highly effective in preventing hepatitis B infection and was generally well tolerated. No serious adverse reactions occurred in these studies.

The vaccination regimen consists of a series of three injections, the first two a month apart and the third, six months after the first. To be effective, the vaccine must be given before a person gets hepatitis B. The vaccine helps prevent the disease: It is *not effective as a treatment*. We suggest that you consult your doctor to determine if you should be vaccinated.

**For more information
about hepatitis B and the
vaccine to prevent it, contact
your doctor, clinic, or the
American Liver Founda-
tion. 998 Pompton Avenue,
Cedar Grove, NJ 07009
(201) 857-2626.**

This message is brought to you as a public service by
The American Liver Foundation

Why you should consult your doctor or clinic

The vaccine helps protect against infection caused by hepatitis B virus. This virus is an important cause of viral hepatitis, a disease mainly of the liver. Even mild forms of this disease may lead to serious complications and aftereffects, including liver cancer. There is no specific treatment for viral hepatitis.

Vaccination is recommended for persons who have a higher risk of becoming infected with hepatitis B virus because of frequent, close contact with infected people or exposure to body fluids from such people. It will not

protect against hepatitis caused by viruses other than hepatitis B virus.

No serious adverse reactions were reported in over 6,000 individuals receiving the vaccine in clinical trials. The most frequent reaction was soreness at the point of injection; less common local reactions included redness, swelling, warmth, or formation of a hard, lumplike spot. The local effects were usually mild and lasted no more than 2 days after vaccination. Occasionally, low-grade fever (less than 101 °F) occurred. When it did, it usually lasted no longer than 48 hours following vaccination. In

rare cases, fever over 102 °F was reported.

More generalized complaints including malaise, fatigue, headache, nausea, dizziness, muscle pain, and joint pain were reported infrequently. Rash was reported rarely. As with any vaccine, broad use may reveal additional adverse reactions.

Your doctor or clinic knows what special care must be taken when administering the vaccine and in determining who should receive the vaccine. The vaccine is not intended for persons who are allergic to any of its components.

By HARVEY THOMPSON, M.D.

But it is unfair and dangerous to put up a sign in the Blood Bank that says: "We Do Not Accept Gay Donors." First, it would be a dangerous smear to the gay and lesbian community that right-wing forces would love to run with. Second, it is unfair to most gays who are *not* part of the 30 percent of the gay male community that is sexually promiscuous (the counterpart of the "swinging single" in straight life). And third, it would probably not work. For example, the donor of the platelet pack to the infant in San Francisco who later developed AIDS *did* develop Kaposi's Sarcoma, more than a year after donating blood. Even though he had the "gay cancer," he denied being gay (certainly possible).

They are not "out to get us," but probably don't understand the public

It would be better and less homophobic to screen out donors 1) with multiple sex partners; 2) with history of recent IV drug abuse; 3) who are blood product recipients; 4) who have history of AIDS diagnosis; 5) who have high risk

And it is being done here in Sacramento. The local blood bank staff is showing interest in our reaction and is willing to "work it out." We are fortunate to have a sympathetic director, Dr. Vince Caggiano, who took time out from his busy schedule to be with us for several hours during the recent AIDS conference. ★

"I make this pledge to the Democratic state convention that the great work of Governor Brown in making sure that we have appointments of all races, of all incomes, of both sexes, will be continued

Roberti later said, "On most issues I support the Democratic party. But I reserve the right to have a conscience and nobody is going to take my conscience away from me." *

Robert Tzakiri, Ph.D.

THE SACRAMENTO STAR welcomes letters from its readers. Letters must be signed with the author's name, although pseudonyms will be printed or names withheld upon request. Only letters signed with the author's true name, address, and telephone number will be considered for publication. All letters must be typed, double-spaced, and should not exceed 200 words. THE SACRAMENTO STAR reserves the right to edit all letters for grammar, spelling, length, libelous content, and offensive or inflammatory language. We regret that we cannot return any letters, published or not.

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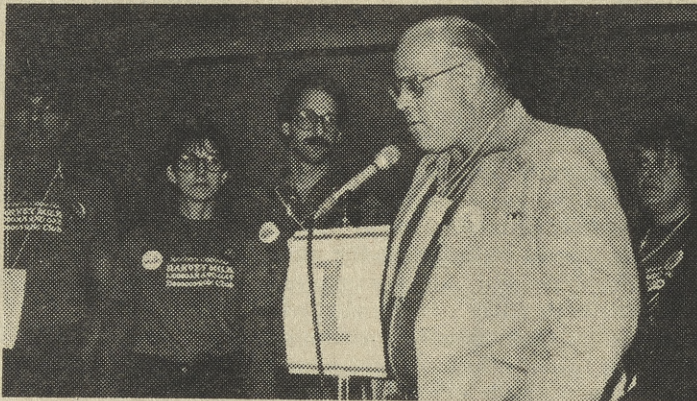
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At The Democrats' State Convention



Star Photos by Tim Warford

At left, David Goodstein, owner of The Advocate, shares a laugh with Cleve Jones, Administrative Aide to Assembly Member Art Agnos, and Jim Foster, veteran gay political figure from San Francisco. Below, Assembly Member Dick Floyd of Gardena, chair of the Labor and Employment Committee, tells the Lesbian and Gay Caucus he believes AB1 has enough "yes" votes to pass his committee. At right, Senator Alan Cranston, voted first choice for the Democratic presidential nomination in a delegate poll, speaks to the Lesbian and Gay Caucus about his record of support for gay rights.



EMPAC'S 'True West': Funny, Thought-Provoking Drama

Reviewed by JAMES K. GRAHAM

True West by Sam Shepard, playing Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons through February 6 at the Eleanor McClatchy Performing Arts Center theatre, is an intriguing

and entertaining look at social and personal values.

It is also a thought-provoking look at the nature of reality, through the eyes of several people who are quite out of touch with reality.

Set in the San Fernando Valley of Southern California, True West is the story of two brothers, Austin and Lee, who are at first glance nearly diametrical opposites.

Austin, played by David Parker, is clean-cut, almost preppy in appearance, college-educated, married, with a career as a writer. He is staying at his mother's house, while she is on a cruise in Alaska, working on a screenplay he hopes to sell.

Lee, played by Bryan Farnell, is dirty, unshaven, beer-bellied, a ne'er-do-well who has spent several months living in the desert, apparently to escape the forces of social order. He too has appeared at Mom's, and is casing the neighborhood homes for valuables that, as he puts it, he needs more than the owners do.

Lee resents Austin's apparent success, and throughout much of the first act needles and harasses his brother. Austin, like the civilized person he is, tries to be polite, to grin and bear it. But when his disreputable brother steals the sale of the screenplay out from under his nose, Austin's facade begins to crack.

Through the second act, tensions

mount, and so does the comedy. But far from being relief, the comedy simply compounds the tension. Shepard seems to have a special gift for making the audience laugh at his characters while also somehow suffering with them.

The scene of the two brothers sitting drunkenly on the debris-strewn floor of the once suburban-perfect kitchen, both utterly frustrated in their hopes and dreams, reminiscing most seriously about their alcoholic father's loss of his false teeth in a doggy bag of chop suey in a bar in some small Southwestern town, makes you laugh and yet makes you feel wretched.

The scene of Lee battering the typewriter with a golf club over his inability to write the utterly fantastic story he has sold Austin's agent, while Austin, reduced to a pitiful, whimpering wreck, alternately babbles and pleads with his brother to take him along to the desert, strikes you in the same way.

The irony here, of course, is that each believes his brother's notion of the true west: the freeways, swimming pools, and movie studios that Austin knows, and the deserts, horses, and campfires that Lee knows.

What is the true west? Which brother really understands what he wants and how to get it? Which brother is the derelict? Shepard leaves the questions unanswered at the end of the play. It may be that he wants to suggest that there is no way of knowing the answers—or that there are no answers.

The EMPAC production, directed by Don West, is excellent. Bryan Farnell outshines the other three cast members in his portrayal of the derelict wheeler-dealer Lee. I found David Parker a bit stiff as Austin, and Daryl Petrig merely adequate as Saul Kimmer, the agent. Lill Estlander Wilder, in the small part of Mom, displayed wonderful bewildered maternal aplomb.

Tickets for True West cost \$5.50 for Friday and Saturday evenings, \$4.50 for Sunday matinees. Students and seniors get a \$1 discount with ID. The EMPAC box office at 1419 H Street is open Tuesday through Saturday noon till 5 p.m. and until curtain time on performance nights. For more information call the box office at 441-6991. ★

How Did You Meet Your Lover?

How did you meet your lover? Where did you meet? Were there unusual, romantic, or funny circumstances involved? Was s/he your "type"? Was it love at first sight? Was it a long courtship?

The Sacramento Star is interested in hearing your answers to these questions for our February 9 Valentine's Day issue.

Give us a call at 452-1476 or send us a brief letter at P.O. Box 160300, suite 156, before February 1. We'll print all the replies we can. ★



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Marks' Bill Will End Redevelopment Discrimination

Legislation clarifying that redevelopment agencies cannot discriminate against gay persons in rentals, sales, or leases was introduced Jan. 20 by State Senator Milton Marks (R-San Francisco).

Marks said that Wilbur Hamilton, San Francisco's Redevelopment Director, met with him earlier this month and supports the bill.

"Wil agrees that redevelopment agencies shouldn't discriminate based on sexual orientation. Senate Bill 184 will make that the Legislature's firm policy too," Marks said.

The Legislature created redevelopment agencies, but local officials operate their programs. For several months, state and local attorneys have wrangled over who had the power to ban discrimination against gays.

"Governments shouldn't discriminate," Marks declared. "And my SB 184 will settle the question of who controls redevelopment policy."

Marks, who chairs the Senate's Local Government Committee, said that he expects that panel to hear his bill in about six weeks.

Also on that committee are vice chair Don McCorquodale (D-San Jose), Ruben Ayala (D-San Bernardino), William Craven (R-Vista), John Doolittle (R-Sacramento), John Garamendi (D-Stockton), and Rose Ann Vuich (D-Dinuba).*

Rev. Troy Perry Here To Raise Funds For TV Special On Gays

The Rev. Troy Perry, founder of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches and moderator of its Board of Elders, will speak in Sacramento on Thursday, Feb. 10 at 7:30 p.m. at River City Metropolitan Community Church, 2741 34th Street, near Broadway.

Perry is currently on a fundraising tour of communities where there are established MCC congregations. The object of the tour is to raise money for a television documentary produced by the church, entitled "God, Gays, and the Gospel: This Is Our Story."

In Sacramento, Perry will speak about the program, its history, and its expected impact on society, and will show brief unedited footage from it. The presentation and a reception following it will be sponsored by the Men's Support Group of River City MCC.

The public is invited to hear Perry's presentation and to contribute to the

Hinman Predicts Win In Suit For Benefits

By SHARON LEAVITT

Boyce Hinman, a gay state employee, and Advocates for Gay and Lesbian State Employees jointly filed suit Dec. 29 in the Sacramento Superior Court in an effort to win dental benefits for Larry Beatty, Hinman's lover of 12 years. If the suit is successful, it would mean dental benefits for other partners of lesbian and gay state employees as well.

When asked why he chose to file suit at this time, Boyce stated that "the time was right." He initially hadn't intended to file suit.

Boyce had applied for dental benefits for himself and Beatty in December 1981 when there was open enrollment in a policy offered through the state. His dental plan was rejected and sent back to him. He then resubmitted the application with his lover's name scratched off. The application was then approved.

Hinman had been advised to file a discrimination complaint with the appropriate state department and in doing so was given the runaround. It was then that he considered seeking legal advice and the option of filing a suit against the State of California.

The Lesbian Rights Project in San Francisco agreed to represent him on the basis that the state should be required to provide dental coverage for employees' partners under the equal protection clause of the State Constitution and ex-

Governor Brown's executive order forbidding employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the executive branch of the state government.

Boyce Hinman and Larry Beatty seized the opportunity, since there are several factors which seem to make their relationship an ideal sample case.

In 1981, Hinman won a precedent-setting decision from the state Board of Control, giving unmarried couples who are forced to move because of job transfers the right to have the state pay for their relocation expenses.

Other factors include the fact that Boyce and Larry have been in a monandrous relationship for 12 years, and have been "out" as gay to their family, friends and employers for quite a while.

When asked if he felt the suit would be successful, Boyce smiled and said, "Yes, but it will probably end up in the Supreme Court."

Both Boyce and Larry indicated that the response from friends, family and employers has been very supportive. In fact, on Tuesday, Jan. 11, Boyce Hinman was voted in as President of Advocates for Gay and Lesbian State Employees by his fellow state workers.

The Lesbian Rights Project is donating the attorney fees. However, Boyce Hinman is responsible for paying court and traveling expenses which could amount to more than \$3,000. Contributions can be made in Boyce Hinman's name and sent to the Lesbian Rights Project, 1370 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA.*

AB1 Hearing Date Set, Win In Committee Predicted, More Local Support Needed

Assembly Bill 1 (AB1), the Agnos gay employment rights bill, has been scheduled to be heard Feb. 22 in the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee.

The bill prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of sexual orientation.

On Jan. 16, Assembly Member Dick Floyd (D-Gardena), chair of the Labor and Employment Committee, told the Lesbian and Gay Caucus of the California Democratic Convention that there were enough yes votes on the committee to pass the bill. If the committee passes the bill, it will then be heard in the Assembly Ways and Means Committee.

Members of the Labor and Employment Committee are Floyd, vice-chair Johan Klehs (D-San Leandro), the bill's author Art Agnos (D-San Francisco), Gerald Felando (R-Torrance), Bill Jones (R-Visalia), Burt Margolian (D-Los Angeles), Alister McAlister (D-Milpitas), Sunny Mojonier (R-San Diego), Gloria Molina (D-Los Angeles), Gwen Moore (D-Los Angeles), and Eric Seastrand (R-San Luis Obispo).

Although there are no Sacramento-area legislators on the Labor and Employment Committee, Tom Hannigan, who represents east Yolo County, sits on the Ways and Means Committee.

In Sacramento, a group of activists has been collecting postcards from local voters in support of the bill. The Sacramento Star has printed a form that can be filled out and mailed in to let the Legislature know how much support there is for AB1.*

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ITEMS

Whale Watching Time

By RICK VAN DYKE

Valerie Winn, R.N., M.S.W., will "facilitate a sharing of concerns" at the meeting of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays on Tuesday, Feb. 1, at 7 p.m. Winn is a Marriage, Family, and Child Counselor specializing in relationship counselling. Her practice includes lesbians, gay men, and their parents. As usual, PFLAG will meet in room 225 of the Carmichael Presbyterian Church, 5645 Marconi Avenue, Carmichael.

The women's band, River, from Carmel, has sent me a postcard announcing their new album "Undercurrents." It will be available this spring on Rising Records. For info about the record and the band, write to P.O. Box 1321, Carmel Valley, CA 93924, or call (408) 659-3752.

On Thursday, Jan. 27, the Sacramento Peace Center is holding a vigil at noon at the Federal Building, 650 Capitol Mall. Also that day, from 6:45 a.m. to 8 a.m., they'll be leafletting and holding a vigil at the gates of Aerojet General Corporation in Rancho Cordova. The vigils, on the 32nd anniversary of nuclear weapons testing at the Nevada Test Site, commemorate victims of nuclear weapons testing. These victims have suffered all types of cancer, especially leukemia, and thyroid disorders, birth defects, and sterility.

Congratulations to the newly-elected officers of the River City Business Association: Norv Giles, President; Dr. Sandy Pomerantz, Vice President; and Unni Shelton, Treasurer. They've made it clear that they "mean business," and that means aggressive recruiting to build the group's membership and expand its activities.

The Northwest Gathering of Radical Fairies will be held again this year outside Detroit, Oregon, on the weekend of February 11-14, according to Joe "The Gardener" Balestreri. It will feature vegetarian meals, saunas and hot tubs, and discussions on such topics as fag-feminist anarchy, rebirthing, and ritual, magick and witchcraft. Information about the gathering is available from N.W. Gathering, 4443 Waldrick Road S.E., Olympia, WA 98501.

Have you been keeping up on your reading? The current issue of *Rolling Stone* magazine (with Dustin Hoffman on the cover) has a good article on AIDS. The excellent cover story for the February/March issue of *Mother Jones* magazine is "Gays at War: The Roots of Liberation" by Allan Berube. It's the story of how the military treated gay men and lesbians during and after World War II—badly, of course. But it's also the story of how their experiences in the service were catalysts for their self-discovery. Don't miss it!

The Gay Olympics are alive and well all over the country. Our local group met recently, I hear, to stay together and plan for the future. From The "Bleep" Bulletin, St. Paul, Minnesota, comes word that they have begun planning for the Gay/Lesbian Winter Games in 1985 or 1986. And in Los Angeles, they've started work on the Pan American Summer Lesbian/Gay Games.

The Sacramento Hepatitis B Project, says director Ken Brock, MSW, has arranged with Serex Lab and Physicians Clinical Lab to provide Hepatitis B screening on demand for all high-risk groups (most gay men are at high risk for this disease). Physicians Clinical Lab has 16 locations in Sacramento County. Tell them the project referred you and the fee will be \$16 for the test rather than the usual \$50 or \$60. Diagnosis, further testing, and treatment will be done by your physician if necessary.

The American Lung Association is sponsoring an introductory orientation for its Nordic Ski Trek on February 3 at 7:30 p.m. at the Sacramento Science Center, 3615 Auburn Boulevard. In preparation for the March 27-31 Trek, participants will learn about proper clothing and skiing techniques as well as ways of making shelters for snow camping. Call 444-LUNG for more information about this adventurous spring vacation.

According to the State Department of Parks and Recreation, it's whale watching season along the California coast. At Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park south of Carmel, the gray whales come very close to shore; and rangers lead a whale watch at 2 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday. In Mendocino County, at MacKerricher State Park, the whale watch begins every Saturday at 10:30 a.m., while on Sundays at 10:30 you can look for the leviathans at Mendocino Headlands State Park. Bring your own binoculars.

Theatre buffs needn't go to The City to see two current productions by American Conservatory Theatre, "The Gin Game" and "Dear Liar." They'll come to River City, at the Eleanor McClatchy Performing Arts Center, on February 11 and 12, respectively. Curtain time is 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 (\$8.50 for EMPAC subscribers. Call the box office at 441-6991 for more information.

Dignity/Sacramento is sponsoring a Valentine's Day Dance on Friday, February 11, from 8 p.m. till midnight in St. Francis' Parish Hall, 25th and K Streets. Proceeds from the \$2 ticket price will go to the Western Regional Lesbian and Gay Student Conference, to be held March 11-13 at Sac State University. DJ David Searle will provide the music, and beer, wine, and soft drinks will be on sale. "Everyone is welcome," the press release says, and they mean it: "young, old, male, female, happy, sad, religious, or otherwise!"

"Neo-Cubism?" is the name of the exhibit opening February 3 at the Michael Himovitz Gallery in Carmichael. It features the works of Shoshannah and Mick Sheldon, who will be honored at a reception opening night from 7 till 10. The show runs through March 1; call the gallery at 486-9335 for more details.

Now that the spring semester has begun at Cal State University Sacramento, the Lesbian/Gay People's Union there will be resuming their ambitious program of rap groups, meetings, speakers, and potlucks. LGPU President Herman Adams, Jr. can give you the scoop on dates and times if you call him at 381-8541.*



Rick Van Dyke

'Eating Raoul' Is Perverted But Fun; You Can't Not Love This Movie

Reviewed by RICK VAN DYKE

How could you not love a film which features a couple named Paul and Mary Bland, who drive a 1956 Buick Century sedan and are trying to scrape together enough money to open a restaurant to be called either "Chez Bland" or "Paul and Mary's Country Kitchen?"

How could you not love a film in which the Blands, saying that "Hollywood is full of rich perverts," launch their own personal counter-revolution against the sexual revolution, luring swingers to their "fabulous fifties" apartment with the help of Raoul, a self-described "hot-blooded Latin" entrepreneur, and Doris the Dominatrix, who offers helpful hints over coffee while she feeds her baby?

How could you not love a film whose premise is that this Bland couple would set up an assembly line for murdering swingers and robbing them in order to get the cash for the down payment on their restaurant?

There's more, but I won't give it all away. Frankly, I don't think you can not love "Eating Raoul," no matter how much you may not want to.

Paul Bartel directs this somewhat macabre and perverted comedy, and stars as Paul Bland, connoisseur of fine wine and frying pan murderer. Mary Woronov plays his innocently sexy wife, a hospital dietician, alias "Naughty Nancy" and "Cruel Carla." Roberto Beltran shines as the sultry and libidinous Raoul, and a parade of suitably off-the-wall character actors

completes the cast.

"Eating Raoul" is currently showing at the Tower Theatre. Critics are already predicting that it will become the latest "cult" film, joining "Harold and Maude" and "Rocky Horror" on midnight showbills across the country. Don't wait till then; see it now at a reasonable hour.*

Club 21 Will Field New Softball Team

Sacramento's Club 21 will sponsor a new team in the Bay Area-based Gay Softball League. According to organizer Don Souza, the new team was accepted as a member of the GSL at a recent meeting in San Francisco attended by approximately 15 teams. Souza said that he was assured that half of the local team's schedule would be played in Sacramento. All home games will be videotaped and shown at the bar.

The first practice for the new team will be held on Saturday, Feb. 5th. The location of the practice will be decided a week before that date.

According to Souza, the Parking Lot will field a team again this year also. "This will help both teams," he said, mentioning "practice games between the two," as well as other functions.

"A charity game is in the works for the end of the season. Monies garnered from this event could go to AIDS research," Souza said.*

Health—A Personal Message

By SANDY POMERANTZ, M.D.

For Alan, who graced me with his love, as he lay dying.

Saturday, after a five-day mini-vacation in Palm Springs, purposely self-shrouded in anonymity, I returned home to learn of the death of a friend, patient, and brother from Kaposi's Sarcoma and AIDS.

The AIDS-related stacks of papers on my desk in the office and at home, the requests for medical talks about AIDS and KS, continue to grow. The anger boils my blood, the loss of my brother elicits my burning tears. What can we do to end this craziness?

I can't presume to be able to list, from 1 to 10, those steps which will guarantee health. At present, gay health professionals collectively do not know what causes AIDS, exactly how it is transmitted, what treatments work best, and most significantly, how to prevent the next gay man's hospitalization and ultimate death. But I do have some ideas I will share with you.

Do not panic. AIDS is not the gay plague. We do not own this disease. Haitian men and heterosexual women who have never received gay blood or gay semen are among others who have been reported as having AIDS increasingly frequently and who have died from it.

Keep vigorous, both mentally and physically. Exercise, eat well, and do not allow that old syndrome of passive-victim defeatism to overwhelm you.

Until more is known, until that "transmissible agent" is unequivocally identified, get to know your sexual partners well. Exchange no semen with partners who are clearly ill or who continue a multi-partnered promiscuous lifestyle in geographic areas where AIDS has been reported with unusual frequency.

That doesn't mean you can't jerk off together; that doesn't mean you can't

kiss your brother and hold him and be held in mutually supportive embraces. It does mean not fucking.

Until more is known, until that "transmissible agent" is unequivocally identified, refrain from donating blood. We don't need to fuel the homophobic fire—"you gave AIDS to us."

We do need, at the very same time, to collectively raise our voices to demand money from every usual and unusual source to fund research to get the answers and to provide support services—to help each other in these turbulent times.

We must back what we say with what we do. Write letters, make phone calls, give money. Sacramento needs its own KS-AIDS Foundation. We have lost enough brothers already in isolation. We need a KS group to form to give each other a safe place to share fears and strengths. We need people to volunteer time and energy to direct the letters and phone calls to the appropriate local, state, and federal officials whom we pay with our taxes to do what they should have done already.

And we need our sisters' help. Women must step forward now and be counted for political pressure. We need their help in this whole blood transfusion controversy, as gay men will need blood during AIDS treatment or simply to replace losses from accidents, surgery, etc. And a woman's financial contribution is as good as any man's.

The time has come for us all to stand firm and be counted. Otherwise, my friends, it is time to pass forth memories and many more tears over the loss of lovers, friends, and brothers—yours and mine.*

Alan David Ferrari died in Sutter General Hospital on January 21 at the age of 38. His family has requested that remembrances be sent to the Sacramento Kaposi's Sarcoma Foundation, Box 162266, Sacramento, CA 95816.

Court Upholds Arkansas Sodomy Law

A divided federal appeals court in St. Louis declined Jan. 17 to strike down the Arkansas sodomy law, holding that the state can properly ban homosexual acts in public restrooms, according to The Associated Press.

Two of the court's three judges refused to rule on the larger issues of the case, that the law unconstitutionally discriminates against private same-sex activity and denies gay people equal

rights with non-gay people.

The limited ruling was the first challenge to the 1977 state law that bans sexual acts with a person of the same sex or an animal.

Charles L. Lemons Jr. was convicted of violating the statute after a ranger in the Hot Springs National Park found him engaging in oral sex with another man in a park restroom. It was the first time the statute had been used, the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals was told.

Lemons, sentenced to 90 days in jail, challenged the law, claiming that it violated his constitutional right to choose his own sexual partner and to enjoy the same status as heterosexual lovers.

Lemons argued that the act prohibits private, adult, consensual conduct between persons of the same sex. But the court refused to go beyond the facts of the case.

"Because we only examine the constitutionality of the Arkansas sodomy

statute as the court applied it to Lemons, we do not reach the question of whether the statute is constitutional under all hypothetical applications," it said.

Lemons also argued that the statute discriminates by barring only homosexual behavior in public restrooms, but the appeals court said the state forbids all oral sex acts in public restrooms and has a justifiable right to do so.

Circuit Judge George Fagg of Des Moines, Iowa, concurred in the opinion written by Judge Gerald W. Heaney of Duluth, Minn. Senior Circuit Judge J. Smith Henley of Harrison, Ark., dissented.

"It is not necessary to go beyond the real life factual situation at hand in order to reach the conclusion, as I have, that appellant's right to equal protection has been violated," Henley said. "I would therefore reverse appellant's conviction on the ground that the Arkansas sodomy statute is unconstitutional." *

Workshop For Men Scheduled For Feb.

Ed Hall and Bruce Gunn will conduct a topic-oriented workshop entitled "Finding and Choosing a Partner" for gay men on Thursday, Feb. 24. The workshop will be run from 7 till 10 p.m. and will be held in a comfortable downtown setting.

The evening will center on group discussion and topical articles on relationships will be distributed.

Topics will include: What do you want a relationship to be? How do you make yourself available? How do you ask for what you want? How do you spend time not finding a relationship? How do you make yourself attractive?

Enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis. The cost is \$15 per person. To reserve a place in the workshop, send a check for this amount to Ed Hall, 2222 Watt Avenue, Suite 14B, Sacramento, CA 95825.

For further information, call Ed Hall at 484-1212 or Bruce Gunn at 443-7171. *

The Sacramento STAR
is proud to be
a member of
River City Business Association
Midtown Business Association
Gay Press Association

POWER PLANT CALENDAR

S M T W T F S

JANUARY

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

FEBRUARY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

MONDAY & TUESDAYS
FREE POOL

TEADANCE
SUNDAYS
5 PM - 2 AM

LIVE D.J.
EVERY THURSDAY
NO COVER

LIVE D.J.
\$1 COVER
FRI & SAT

\$10⁵ WINE COOLER
MON - WED
8 - 11 PM

LIVE D.J.
EVERY THURSDAY
NO COVER

50¢ BOTTLE BEER
EVERY WEDNESDAY

LIVE D.J.
\$1 COVER
FRI & SAT

31 NEW YEARS EVE PARTY
LIMITED TICKETS
\$10 EACH

20 CAPRICORN PARTY
DRAFT ALL NIGHT
\$2 COVER

27 BARE-IT-ALL BALL
STRIPPER CONTEST
\$2 COVER

6 MARTI GRAS PARTY
COSTUME CONTEST
\$2 COVER

13 SWEETHEART'S TEA DANCE
DRAFT ALL NIGHT
\$2 PER COUPLE COVER

17 AQUARIAN PARTY
DRAFT ALL NIGHT
\$2 COVER

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6th

MARTI GRAS PARTY

COSTUME CONTEST

CASH PRIZES

DOORS OPEN AT 5PM

\$2 COVER





TEADANCE INFO:
ALL SUNDAYS:
OPTIONAL \$2 COVER
GETS YOU FREE DRAFT

OUR HOURS:
MON - FRI
8 PM - 2 AM
SAT & SUN
5 PM - 2 AM

1816 21st STREET
(Between R & S Streets)